

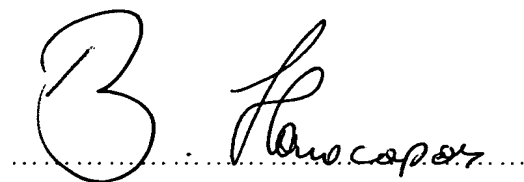
IN THE MATTER OF

French Patent Application No. 01 09111
in the name of
Société de Technologie MICHELIN et al.

DECLARATION

I, B. Harocopos, MA (Cantab.), MSc, employed as a freelance translator by **Messrs Lloyd Wise** of Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1LW, England, Chartered Patent Agents,
hereby certify that I am fluent in the English and French languages,
and that the attached English translation of the French Patent Application No. 01/09111 filed on July 9, 2001 is complete and accurate.

Signed this **14th** day of **March, 2006**


.....

111 Pepys Road
London SW18 5UJ
England

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REGISTERED OFFICE

NATIONAL	26 bis, rue de Saint Petersburg
INSTITUTE OF	75800 Paris Cédex 08
INDUSTRIAL	Telephone: 33 (0) 1 53 04 53 04
PROPERTY	Fax: 33 (0) 1 53 04 45 23
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DATE OF FILING ASSIGNED 09 JULY 2001 BY INPI			
Your references for this file (optional) P10-1364/CHD			
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3. TITLE OF THE INVENTION (200 characters or spaces maximum)			
Tyre tread provided with incisions			
4. DECLARATION OF PRIORITY OR REQUEST TO BENEFIT FROM THE DATE OF FILING OF A PRIOR FRENCH APPLICATION		Country or organisation Date No. Country or organisation Date No. Country or organisation Date No. <input type="checkbox"/> If there are other priorities, tick the box and use the "Continuation" form	
5. APPLICANT		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If there are other applicants, tick the box and use the "Continuation" form	
Name or company name		Société de Technologie MICHELIN	
First names			
Legal status		Société Anonyme (Limited Company)	
SIREN No.		4.1.4.6.2.4.3.7.9	
APE-NAF Code			
Address	Street	23 rue Breschet	
	Post code and town	63000	CLERMONT-FERRAND
	Country	France	
Nationality		French	
Telephone No. (optional)			
Fax No. (optional)			
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6. AGENT (where appropriate)		
Name		
First name		
Office or Company		Manufacture Française des Pneumatiques MICHELIN
No. of Power of Attorney and/or of the contractual bond		PG 7107 and 7112
Address	Street	23 place des Carmes Déchaux
	Post code and town	63040 CLERMONT-FERRAND CEDEX 09
	Country	France
Telephone No. (optional)		04 73 10 78 34
Fax No. (optional)		04 73 10 86 96
E-mail (optional)		
7. INVENTOR(S)		The inventors are necessarily physical persons
Are the applicants and the inventors the same persons?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. In this case fill in the Inventor Designation Form.
8. SEARCH REPORT.		Only for a patent application (including division and transformation)
Immediate establishment or deferred establishment		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Payment of the fee in instalments (two instalments)		Only for physical persons filing their own application <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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For MFPM – Agent 422-5/S.020 (signature) Christian DIERNAZ, MFPM Employee		M. MARTIN

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26 bis, rue de Saint Pétersbourg
75800 Paris Cedex 08

Telephone: 01 53 04 53 04 Fax: 01 42 94 86 54

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THE DATE OF FILING OF		Country or organisation	No.
A PRIOR FRENCH APPLICATION		Date	No.
5. APPLICANT			
Name or company name		MICHELIN Recherche et Technique S.A.	
First names			
Legal status		Limited Company	
SIREN No.			
APE-NAF Code			
Address	Street	Route Louis Braille 10 and 12	
	Post code and town	1763	GRANGES-PACCOT
Country		Switzerland	
Nationality		Swiss	
Telephone No. (optional)			
Fax. No. (optional)			
E-mail address (optional)			
5. APPLICANT			
Name or company name			
First names			
Legal status			
SIREN No.			
APE-NAF Code			
Address	Street		
	Post code and town		
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Nationality			
Telephone No. (optional)			
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10. SIGNATURE OF THE APPLICANT OR AGENT (Name and position of the signatory)		STAMP OF THE PREFECTURE OR INPI	
For MFPM – Agent 422-5/S.020 Christian DIERNAZ, MFPM Employee		(signature) M. MARTIN	

The invention concerns the treads of tyres intended for fitting to the driving axles of vehicles, and more particularly heavy vehicles.

Such a tread is generally provided with a tread pattern formed of relief elements, ridges and/or blocks, separated from one another in the transverse and/or circumferential direction by circumferential and/or transverse grooves. Depending on the axle on which a tyre is fitted, its tread is provided with a pattern comprising more blocks or more ridges of generally circumferential orientation. In the case of a driving axle, i.e. an axle to which a driving or braking torque is transmitted, it is customary to produce, rather, patterns that comprise a plurality of blocks delimited by both circumferential and transverse grooves. The major disadvantages of this type of pattern are that the pliability of the tread is increased (reduction of the shear rigidity under a force tangential to the surface of the relief elements passing through the contact zone) and that the noise emission during rolling increases with the amount of grooving (ratio between the areas of grooves and the total area of the tread).

Another possibility consists in producing a pattern formed of ridges with generally circumferential orientation (i.e. which can zig-zag either side of that direction) and providing these ridges with a plurality of incisions whose width is small compared to the width of the grooves (as a general rule, the average width of the incisions is at most 2 mm); these incisions may or may not be oblique relative to the transverse direction of the tyre, and may extend through part or all of the useful thickness of the tread (by definition, the useful thickness corresponds to the thickness of tread that a user can use while still complying with the legal prescriptions in force). Although the presence of these incisions favours road grip due to the presence of the numerous edges that they form on the rolling surface of the ridges, an increase of their number also reduces rigidity, which is detrimental to the tyre's other performance characteristics, this reduction of rigidity being in part associated with the ability of the opposite rubber walls that delimit each incision to slide relative to one another during passage through the road contact zone.

A solution was proposed in particular by the applicant in patent EP 768958, which describes new forms of incisions that substantially reduce the relative sliding between opposite walls, and according to which the said walls each have a relief surface formed of projections and concavities arranged on either side of a mean surface, a projection being completely surrounded by concavities and vice-versa, such that the wall surfaces cooperate together to restrict the relative movements between the said walls.

In general these incisions are arranged so as to form rubber edges orientated essentially transversely so as to have an effect on the grip of the tyre under a driving or braking torque when rolling in a straight line. It has been found that under forces tangential to the contact surface of ridges provided with such incisions, although to be sure the walls are blocked against the opposite walls, this blocking does not become effective instantaneously. During noise measurement tests on heavy vehicles that consisted in applying a driving torque to the driving axle, the applicant found that the larger was the number of incisions of the type described in patent EP 768958, the more perceptible became the noise recorded as the vehicle passed. In fact, there are directions in which there is no blocking between the walls:

The need exists for a tyre tread pattern formed essentially of circumferential ridges provided with a plurality of incisions having mean width less than 2 mm, which create a large number and a large length of edges, the said incisions delimiting a plurality of rubber elements whose opposite walls are mutually blocked against one another with virtually instantaneous effect (i.e. in a time which is very appreciably reduced or zero).

To that end, the invention proposes a tread for tyres which comprises a pattern formed by at least two grooves of generally circumferential orientation, these grooves delimiting at least two ridges each comprising a contact face intended to come in contact with the road and two lateral faces, the said lateral faces intersecting the contact face to form edges, at least one of the said ridges, of mean width L, having a plurality of incisions that open onto the contact face and onto the two lateral faces of the ridge, such that the trace of each incision on the

contact surface when the tyre is new extends between two intersection points A and B with the edges of the ridge, and the direction of the segment AB makes an angle α with the transverse direction of the tread at most equal to 40° , the said tread being characterised in that:

- each incision, of mean width E, comprises between one lateral face of the ridge and its other lateral face a succession of incision portions, some of the said incision portions, on any surface parallel to the contact surface in the new condition and located between the said surface in the new condition and $2/3$ of the maximum depth of the incision, having traces which make an average angle β at most equal to 15° relative to the longitudinal direction of the tread, and in projection on this longitudinal direction, the said portions having a total length L_t which is at least equal to one-fifth of the width L of the ridge; and in that
- the incision portions whose traces make an average angle β are provided on opposite walls with relief elements of amplitude K designed to cooperate during passage through the road contact zone, to block relative movements between one wall of the incision and the opposite wall in the direction of the tread's thickness and in the longitudinal direction of the tread, the amplitude K of the said relief elements being between 4 and 10 times the mean width E of the incision.

The total length L_t is equal to the sum of the lengths of the projections on the longitudinal direction Y of the incision portions which make an average angle of at most 15° with the longitudinal direction Y.

The mean width E of an incision is defined as the average distance separating its opposite walls.

To obtain the result desired, it is essential to achieve the combination of a sufficient length of incision portions that make a small angle with the longitudinal direction of the tread (corresponding to the circumferential direction when the tread is part of a tyre) and the presence of relief elements on those portions to achieve blocking of the walls of the said portions in all the directions contained on the surface of the said portions. Thus, when passing through the ground contact zone, the ridges provided with incisions according to the invention can be likened to mechanically continuous ridges (i.e. without incisions), since the opposite walls of the incisions are at least locally blocked against one another to prevent any relative movement in directions parallel to the said walls (i.e. other than perpendicular to these walls).

Preferably:

- the total length L_t is at least equal to one-third of the width L of the ridge;
- each incision portion making an average angle β at most equal to 15° has, in projection on the longitudinal direction of the tread, a length between one-quarter and half the mean distance between two incisions;
- to improve the blocking still further, each incision portion making an average angle β at most equal to 15° has, in projection on the longitudinal direction of the tread, a length at least equal to one-fifth the width of the ridge;
- the walls of incisions making an average angle β at most equal to 15° are provided with relief elements over at least 50% of the maximum depth of the incision from the rolling surface in the new condition; advantageously, these relief elements (concave or raised) are distributed along at least three lines whose level is essentially parallel to the rolling surface;

- the average angle β is at most equal to 5° , to achieve even more effective blocking of movements in the longitudinal direction of the incision walls;
- all the incision portions are provided with relief elements on their walls, these relief elements being designed to cooperate between themselves to block all movements along directions parallel to the said walls.

The tread according to the invention functions almost identically to the same tread provided with a pattern formed of ridges, while having a number and total length of edges in the contact zone which confer upon the tread a greatly superior grip performance. In effect, all relative movements of one wall relative to the wall opposite, except for their moving apart, are very markedly reduced or even prevented entirely, whether a rib provided with such incisions is subjected in the contact zone to tangential longitudinal (circumferential) or transverse forces, or to a combination of such forces.

Besides, it has been found that a tread pattern according to the invention does not suffer additional wear and in particular that it does not suffer irregular wear (i.e. the wear observed is essentially uniform over the entire contact surface of the ridges).

The relief elements (projections and concavities) can have any geometrical shape, but it is preferable for these shapes to be similar so as to allow even more effective cooperation. It is of course possible to form only projections on one wall delimiting an incision and only concavities complementary to the projections on the opposite wall.

To achieve still better blocking, it is advantageous to distribute over the entire width of the ridges the presence of incision portions that make average angles β at most equal to 15° . To do this, and if it is noted that:

- **Le** : maximum distance separating the incision portions which comprise relief elements and are located closest to the lateral faces of each ridge, and
- **Li** : maximum distance separating the incision portions which comprise relief elements and are located closest to the median portion of each ridge,

it is advantageous for these distances to satisfy the following relationships:

$$1/3 \leq \mathbf{Le/L} \leq 2/3$$

$$1/4 \leq \mathbf{Li/L}$$

Other characteristics and advantages of the invention emerge from the description given below with reference to the attached drawings, which show embodiments of the object of the invention presented as non-limiting examples.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1, illustrating a first variant, is a plan view of a ridge in a tread of a tyre according to the invention;

Fig. 2 shows a section of an incision in the ridge shown in Fig. 1, along the line II - II;

Fig. 3 shows a plan view of a tread ridge in a second variant according to the invention;

Fig. 4 shows a section of part of an incision in the ridge shown in Fig. 3, along the line IV-IV;

Fig. 5 shows a section of part of the incision in the ridge shown in Fig. 3, along the line V-V.

Fig. 1 shows a partial view of a ridge 1 of a tread for a heavy vehicle tyre of size 315/80 R 22.5, comprising a total of eight ridges delimited by grooves with a mean depth of 15 mm, orientated in the circumferential direction of the tread (represented by the direction Y in Fig. 1).

The ridge 1 has a contact face 2 intended to come in contact with the ground during rolling, and two lateral faces 3 and 4 intersecting the contact face 2 along two edges 5 and 6. The ridge 1 is provided with a plurality of incisions 7 opening onto each lateral surface; viewed on the rolling surface of the tyre in the new condition, each incision 7 intersects the said surface 2 along a line extending between points A and B located on the edges 5 and 6 of the ridge. The average angle of the trace of the incision on the rolling surface corresponds to the angle α between the segment AB and the transverse direction of the tread (marked as direction X in the figure); this angle is in the present case equal to 7° . Each incision in a given ridge has a mean width E of 0.6 mm and virtually constant depth over its entire length (between points A and B), equal to the depth of the grooves that delimit the ridge 1.

Each incision 7 extends between the lateral face 5 and the other lateral face 6 of the ridge 1 and is formed by a succession of straight incision portions 70, 71, 72, 73, 74 whose intersections with the rolling surface can be seen in Fig. 1.

Two portions 71, 72 of the incision 7 have traces on the rolling surface which make angles with the longitudinal direction of the tread (marked as direction Y in the figure) of β_1 and β_2 respectively, which are in this case both equal to 7° . These two incision portions 71 and 72 have lengths L1 and L2 both equal to 5 mm, the sum Lt of these lengths projected on the longitudinal direction Y being in this case equal to one-third of the width L of the ridge.

The two incision portions 71 and 72 are in addition provided on the walls delimiting them with a plurality of projecting and concave relief elements rather similar to those described in

the patent US5 783 002; these relief elements, which can be seen in Fig. 2 showing a section along the line II–II in Fig. 1, have on each wall that delimits the incision portion 71 a maximum amplitude K equal to 3.3 mm. The said relief elements are provided over the full height of the incision and are distributed at several levels between the rolling surface and the bottom of the incision: in practice, and viewed in the direction of the incision's depth H_i , there are preferably at least three rows of relief elements.

In the example presented, the portions 70, 73 and 74 of the incision are also flat and have traces on the rolling surface which make the same angle α equal to 7° . Furthermore, these portions also have a plurality of relief elements similar to those arranged on the portions 71 and 72.

In the example described, the direction of rotation is opposite to the direction Y in Fig. 1.

Globally, the incision 1 is perpendicular to the rolling surface in the new condition, i.e. each portion 70, 71, 72, 73, 74 is on average perpendicular to the said surface.

As a variant, each incision may be inclined at an angle whose absolute value is at most equal to 15° , the incisions in a given ridge being inclined in alternation at a positive and at a negative angle.

Table I below presents a comparison of various patterns having ridges (case 1 to case 4):

- without incisions (case 1);
- with flat incisions having a rectilinear trace on the rolling surface (case 2);
- with flat incisions having a plurality of relief elements as described in the patent US5 783 002 (case 3);
- with incisions according to the present invention (case 4).

In this last case 4, the tyre comprises eight ridges each provided with a plurality of incisions such as those shown in Fig. 1. The incisions of the ridge at the shoulder differ from those in the other ridges in that, since the shoulder ridge is wider, these incisions are provided with an additional undulation of larger amplitude:

[colon suggests that something has been omitted]

To compare these tread patterns (Table I), a rigidity in longitudinal shear (along the direction Y in Fig. 1) is calculated for each of them, equal to the ratio between the longitudinal force exerted by the ground on each pattern and the shear deformation imposed on the said pattern. A pliability is also calculated, which is defined as the ratio between the rigidity in longitudinal shear and the product obtained when the shear modulus of the rubber is multiplied by the pattern area in contact with the ground.

A grooving proportion of each tread pattern is defined as the ratio between the sum of the areas of the incisions on a ridge in the new condition and the total area of the said ridge.

Table I - Calculated values

	Rigidity in longitudinal shear, in daN/mm	Pliability, in %	Grooving, in %
Case 1	44.30	98.66	0
Case 2	24.64	56.58	3
Case 3	21.79	50.55	4
Case 4	26.59	62.57	5.33

It is clear that with the pattern according to the invention (case 4) the grooving proportion and length of edges can be increased while also increasing the rigidity in longitudinal shear, compared with what is obtained with patterns having incisions not according to the invention, without on the other hand producing too great a pliability.

Measurements have also been made on tyres provided with the same patterns (cases 2, 3 and 4) and a pattern having ridges provided with bridged rectilinear incisions (case 5), i.e. ones whose opposite walls are connected by bridges of rubber. These measurements are shown in Table II below:

Table II - Measurements on tyres

	Mean rigidity in longitudinal shear per rib, in daN/%	Mean grooving proportion per rib, in %
Case 2	50	3
Case 3	55	3
Case 4	60	5.33
Case 5	55	2.9

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It is clear that with the pattern according to the invention (case 4) the grooving proportion and length of edges can be increased while also increasing the rigidity in longitudinal shear, compared with what is obtained with patterns having incisions not according to the invention, without on the other hand producing too great a pliability.

Measurements have also been made on tyres provided with the same patterns (cases 2, 3 and 4) and a pattern having ridges provided with bridged rectilinear incisions (case 5), i.e. ones whose opposite walls are connected by bridges of rubber. These measurements are shown in Table II below:

Table II - Measurements on tyres

	Mean rigidity in longitudinal shear per ridge, in daN/%	Mean grooving proportion per ridge, in %
Case 2	50	3
Case 3	55	3
Case 4	60	5.33
Case 5	55	2.9

It is clear that the tread pattern provided with incisions according to the invention (case 4) retains a higher rigidity (expressed in daN per % deformation) than a pattern provided with incisions having bridges, while offering greater grooving regardless of the wear level.

Fig. 3 shows another variant according to the invention of a ridge 10 of a tread comprising a plurality of incisions 700. Viewed on the rolling surface 20, each incision has a trace which extends between two points A and B of intersection with each edge of the ridge. This incision has several successive incision portions going from A towards B, namely: AC, CD, DE, EF, FG, GH, HI, IJ, JB. The incision portions AC, DE, FG, HI are aligned with the transverse direction X and do not have relief elements on the walls which delimit them.

The portions CD, EF, GH, IJ each make an average angle β whose absolute value is 5° relative to the longitudinal direction Y (the angle being that of the segment connecting the points at the ends of each of the said incision portions). All these incision portions are provided with a plurality of relief elements (as indicated symbolically by the undulating lines 8 on the rolling surface, as shown in Fig. 3).

To improve still further the blocking of the walls of longer incision portions, the maximum amplitude K of the relief elements is located towards the median area of each such portion (in the example shown, the amplitude of the relief elements increases progressively from each end towards the median area, as indicated schematically by the dotted lines).

It is advantageous for the incision portions inclined at an angle β smaller than 15° relative to the longitudinal direction of the tread, to be distributed over the width of the ridge in such manner that the blocking of the incision's opposite walls is as evenly distributed as possible over the full width of the ridge. In the present case, the maximum width L_e separating the incision portions comprising relief elements and located closest to the lateral faces of each ridge (corresponding to portions CD and IJ and more particularly to the distance between the

points C and J), is equal to $2/3$ of the width L of the ridge 10, while the maximum width L_i separating the incision portions with relief elements and located closest to the median part of the ridge, is equal to one-third of the width L .

Advantageously, the incision portions without any relief elements are inclined at a positive and a negative angle relative to a median plane perpendicular to the rolling surface and passing through the point A, this inclination being equal to at most 15° .

In the present case, the incision portions DE and HI without relief elements are inclined relative to a perpendicular to the rolling surface of the tread in the new condition, as shown in Fig. 4. Fig. 4, which is a section along the line IV - IV in Fig. 3, shows that the trace of the incision portion HI is inclined at an angle γ_1 relative to a perpendicular to the rolling surface passing through the point of intersection of that portion with the said surface. On the other hand, the incision portion FG located on the other side of the segment AB relative to the portions DE and HI, is inclined at an angle γ_2 of the same value but opposite sign to the angle γ_1 , as shown in Fig. 5, which is a section along the line V - V of the said incision portion FG.

If L' and L'' denote the distances of the incision points furthest away in the longitudinal direction from the notional line passing through the points A and B and located on either side of this line, various cases are possible. In the example described, L' and L'' are essentially equal to one another and to one-quarter of the width L of the ridge.

For better functional equilibrium of the tread and better blocking of the incision walls, it is advantageous for the lengths L' and L'' to be weighted according to the number of incision portions orientated virtually in the longitudinal direction: in the present case, it would be preferable to have L'' essentially equal to twice the length of L' .

Figs. 1 and 3 show ridges provided with incisions according to the invention, which confer a preferential orientation on the said ridges: of course, the same effect can be obtained with a tread pattern in which a plurality of incisions are produced in each ridge, the trace of each incision being essentially symmetrical relative to the line connecting the points of intersection of the said incision with the edges of the said ridge.

The relief elements may be in the form of grooves and ridges designed to cooperate with one another to ensure the blocking of any movement once the walls of incisions provided with such elements are in contact with one another. The not necessarily rectilinear grooves and ridges are formed on opposite walls along average directions which may or may not be perpendicular to the rolling surface.

The invention is not limited to the examples described and illustrated, and various modifications can be made without going beyond its scope. In particular, tyres for passenger cars are also concerned, as well as tyres for non-driving axles of heavy vehicles.

CLAIMS

1 - Tread for a tyre, comprising a tread pattern formed by at least two grooves of generally circumferential orientation, these grooves delimiting at least two ridges (1) each comprising a contact face (2) intended to come in contact with the road and two lateral faces, these lateral faces intersecting the contact face to form edges (5, 6), at least one of the said ridges, of mean width L, comprising a plurality of incisions (7) with maximum depth H_i which, in the new condition, open onto the contact face and onto the two lateral faces of the ridge, the trace of each incision on the contact surface extending between two points of intersection A and B with the edges of the ridge, the segment AB making an angle α with the transverse direction of the tread at most equal to 40° , the said tread being **characterised in that:**

- each incision (7) of mean width E, comprises, from one lateral face of the ridge to its other lateral face, a succession of incision portions (70, 71, 72, 73, 74), some of these incision portions having, over any surface parallel to the contact surface in the new condition and located between the said surface in the new condition and $\frac{2}{3}$ of the maximum depth H_i of the incision, traces that make, with the longitudinal direction of the tread, an average angle β at most equal to 15° , the said portions, viewed in projection on this longitudinal direction, having a total length L_t at least equal to one-fifth of the width L of the ridge; **and in that**
- the incision portions whose traces make an average angle β are provided on their opposite walls with relief elements of amplitude K designed to cooperate with one another, during passage through the road contact zone, to block the relative movements between one incision wall and the opposite wall in the direction of the thickness of the tread and in the longitudinal direction of the tread, the amplitude K

of the said relief elements being between 4 and 10 times the mean width E of the incision.

- 2 - Tread for a tyre according to Claim 1, **characterised in that** the total length L_t , equal to the sum of the projections on the longitudinal direction Y of the lengths of the incision portions that make an angle at most equal to 15° with the longitudinal direction Y, is at least equal to one-third of the width L of the ridge.
- 3 - Tread for a tyre according to Claims 1 or 2, **characterised in that** the walls delimiting the incision portions that make an angle β at most equal to 15° with the circumferential direction, comprise relief elements from the rolling surface down to a depth at least equal to 50% of the maximum depth H_i of the incision.
- 4 - Tread for a tyre according to any of Claims 1 to 3, **characterised in that** the average angle β is at most equal to 5° .
- 5 - Tread for a tyre according to any of Claims 1 to 4, **characterised in that** at least one portion of the incisions is inclined relative to a plane perpendicular to the rolling surface, the said plane passing through the point A, by an average angle different from 0° .
- 6 - Tread for a tyre according to Claim 5, **characterised in that** the incisions are all inclined relative to a plane perpendicular to the rolling surface and passing through the point A, by a same average angle whose absolute value is at most equal to 5° .
- 7 - Tread for a tyre according to Claim 5, **characterised in that** the incisions are all inclined relative to a plane perpendicular to the rolling surface and passing through the point A, by a same average angle whose absolute value is at most equal to 15° , the said incisions being inclined in alternation at a positive and at a negative angle.

of the said relief elements being between 4 and 10 times the mean width E of the incision.

- 2 - Tread for a tyre according to Claim 1, **characterised in that** the total length L_t , equal to the sum of the projections on the longitudinal direction Y of the lengths of the incision portions that make an angle at most equal to 15° with the longitudinal direction Y, is at least equal to one-third of the width L of the ridge.
- 3 - Tread for a tyre according to Claims 1 or 2, **characterised in that** the walls delimiting the incision portions that make an angle β at most equal to 15° with the circumferential direction, comprise relief elements from the rolling surface down to a depth at least equal to 50% of the maximum depth H_i of the incision.
- 4 - Tread for a tyre according to any of Claims 1 to 3, **characterised in that** the average angle β is at most equal to 5° .
- 5 - Tread for a tyre according to any of Claims 1 to 4, **characterised in that** at least one portion of the incisions is inclined relative to a plane perpendicular to the rolling surface, the said plane passing through the point A, by an average angle different from 0° .
- 6 - Tread for a tyre according to Claim 5, **characterised in that** the incisions are all inclined relative to a plane perpendicular to the rolling surface and passing through the point A, by a same average angle whose absolute value is at most equal to 15° , the said incisions being inclined in alternation at a positive and at a negative angle.
- 7 - Tread for a tyre according to any of Claims 1 to 4, **characterised in that** there are at least two incision portions with average inclination smaller than 15° , the said portions having opposite inclinations.
- 8 - Tread for a tyre according to any of Claims 1 to 7, **characterised in that**

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8 - Tread for a tyre according to any of Claims 1 to 4, **characterised in that** there are at least two incision portions of average inclination smaller than 15°, the said portions having opposite inclinations.

9 - Tread for a tyre according to any of Claims 1 to 8, **characterised in that:**

$$1/3 \leq Le/L \leq 2/3$$

$$1/4 \leq Li/L$$

where:

- **Le:** maximum distance separating the incision portions that comprise relief elements and are located closest to the lateral faces of each ridge, and
- **Li:** maximum distance separating the incision portions that comprise relief elements and are located closest to the median part of each ridge.

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$$1/3 \leq \mathbf{Le/L} \leq 2/3$$

$$1/4 \leq \mathbf{Li/L}$$

where:

- **Le:** maximum distance separating the incision portions that comprise relief elements and are located closest to the lateral faces of each ridge, and
- **Li:** maximum distance separating the incision portions that comprise relief elements and are located closest to the median part of each ridge.

G. 2

FIG. 2

